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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/608,216	06/30/2003	Kiyoshi Minoura	1035-457	7662
23117	7590	05/21/2004	EXAMINER	
NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC 1100 N GLEBE ROAD 8TH FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22201-4714			HASAN, MOHAMMED A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2873	

DATE MAILED: 05/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/608,216	MINOURA ET AL.
	Examiner Mohammed Hasan	Art Unit 2873

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6-30-03

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 24 - 26 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 24 - 26 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 June 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/30/2003.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt of acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119 (a) – (d), which papers have placed of record in the file.

Oath/Declaration

2. Oath and declaration filed on 6/30/2003 is accepted.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The prior art documents submitted by applicant in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on 6/30/2003 have all been considered and made of record (note the attached copy of form PTO – 1449) (Note: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/821,686, Now U.S. Patent No. 6, 657,766 B2 have been considered).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 24 – 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Popovich et al (6,353,489 B1).

Regarding claim 24, Popovich et al discloses (refer to figures 4 and 5) a retro-reflector (10) comprising a plurality of adjoining retro-reflecting section for reflecting incident light so that an outgoing ray of the reflected light is substantially parallel to the incident light, where light absorbing surface (23 R) portions for absorbing light are provided at boarders of the retro-reflecting section (column 6, lines 14 – 57).

Regarding claim 25, Popovich et al discloses (refer to figure 5) the light absorbing surface (23 R) portions are provided in a standing direction with respect to a surface direction of the retro-reflecting sections (column 6, lines 56 – 60).

Regarding claim 26, Popovich et al discloses (refer to figures 4 and 5) the retro-reflecting sections are in a form of a corner cube array, and the light absorbing surface (23 R) portions are formed so that front end portions thereof make up a single plane with respect to an imaginary plane connecting respective vertices of the retro-reflecting sections (column 6, lines 56 – 60).

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The closest prior art

Sick (4,660,929) discloses a retroreflector.

Lindner et al (3,918,795) discloses a retro-reflector construction.

Beach et al (4,930,870) discloses a retro – reflectors.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammed Hasan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2331. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH, 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Epps can be reached on (571) 272- 2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MH
May 13, 2004



Scott J. Sugarman
Primary Examiner